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SOURCE Hsin-sheng Wan Pao.

SUN LI-JEN SEEN AS
NO 1 MAN IN TAIWAN

There have been many rumors of a US-sponsored independence movement in Taiwan. While there still seems to be such an organization in Tokyo, it is not receiving much encouragement at present because the Americans, being realistic, are aware that at present the KMT has too strong a hold on the island for such an independence movement to succeed.

There are many Japanese among the uniformed personnel of the Allied powers in Taiwan, but the nature of their activities is not easy to fathom.

The important US middleman in Taiwan at present is not the Governor, Gen Ch'en Cheng, but US-trained Gen Sun Li-jen, who is in charge of the KMT troop-training program on the island. Though he does not stand high among KMT military men, he is the most important man in US - Taiwan relationships. So long as Sun is in Taiwan, General MacArthur feels at ease as to his control there.

Of what does this control consist? This is a military secret. What is known is, that General MacArthur is holding vast stores of surrendered Japanese war supplies in reserve in Japan. Only a minor portion of these supplies was publicly destroyed. The rest is held in reserve for a day of need. Furthermore, there were many caches of Japanese munitions on Taiwan at the time of the surrender. Maps of these caches were supplied to General MacArthur's intelligence officers and the KMT uncovered them. Are there any further factors in this control? We do not know, but CCP sources have been circulating a story, that Sun Li-jen has been in Tokyo for a conference with General MacArthur. If this story is true (though this publication has not been able to verify it), the subject of this conference would be worthy of consideration.

Today Sun's position in Taiwan is such that Ch'en Cheng has to show him considerable deference. It is reported that General Barr, formerly chief of the American Military Advisory Commission in China, who spent some time in General MacArthur's service, was much interested in Taiwan and that he wrote Gen Ch'en Cheng a letter expressing interest in the fate of General Sun after his return from the fiasco in Manchuria. While this letter did not openly urge General Ch'en to give Sun high regard, he was able to read this idea between the lines. At least it is apparent that Ch'en has not tried to exercise any control over Sun's training program on the island.

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It appears that, though Chiang Kai-shek once disliked Sun Li-jen, he has now changed his attitude. When Chiang Wei-kuo went to Taiwan to set up training headquarters for armored forces, he carried a letter from his father to General Sun. Ch'en Ch'eng is not unconscious of this change of attitude on the part of his chief.

Whatever the reasons, it is apparent that Sun Li-jen is the high man in Taiwan at present. While Taiwan's relationship to Japan is different now from what it was during the Japanese occupation, there is still a certain dependence on Tokyo. It is this lies Sun's importance to the island.

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